

Iowa City, Iowa.

December 30 1872

Dear Miss Chandler,

If distance enhances
the romance of friendships, I must
hasten to fulfill my promise.
Since here I face homeward, and
from "the Iowa", or "pleasant land"
of Indian tradition. A pleasant
land and hospitable truly, open
on their prairies, and serene as their
skies. Everywhere, at Dubuque,
Watrous, Fort Dodge, Des Moines,
Marshalltown, Grinnell, here in
Iowa City, the widest opportunities
for meeting the best people - salons,
halls.

hospitals. school-rooms. perhaps 4
feet or 5 school. feet or circle. Really
the enjoyment of such hospitalities
alike to thought and person threatens
to cast his own neighborhood into
dispute. There at any rate is
character, if not of culture. more
of catholicity. The vigorous New
England stock transplanted to the
wheat-land of these prairies, yields
a fresher and riper fruit.

Some day, we will make
a party of three or four, and see
together this splendid State.

Very pleasant, my fellow-travelers
greatly enhanced moreover, to be
admitted into homes, to find a
daughter's name "a household word";
her books better known even, than
her name

home - he lately preceding me,
and all every hearth side, one every
platform I chance to mount, but
they must be told, and gain in telling.

Here at a Christmas Tree Festival.
old and young, a wonderful, must needs
give three cheers after the telling, to
the author of Little Women. Literally.
Proud Papa is everywhere promoted to the
high places and honored on "poor" account.

And, pray, how Papa the
holidays with yourself? One brief
word, if no more, about these,
many about yourself especially,
as soon amidst the many charming
children of the prairie, I do not
the less admire and remember.

I leave presently for Des Moines
Iowa, where Albert will find me

if addressed to the care of
"George H. French Esq."

from thence I expect to take the
River steamer to St. Louis. It is my
hope to write again, and
again.

Very affectionately,

Your friend,

A. Bronson Alcott

Wm. Allen A. Chamberlain.